

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 4, 2005

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 4, 2005**. Hurricane Katrina brought extensive winds and rain across the state. South Mississippi received the brunt of the storm and crop damage in this region is unknown at this time. As harvesting continues across the state, farmers are concerned about crop conditions and the yields that will come from these crops. Sweetpotato farmers have gathered crews and are going full force in the fields harvesting. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 38 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dent	98	94	100	100	17	21	24	34	4
	Mature	91	76	99	95					
	Harvested	59	37	69	61					
	Silage Harvested	99	98	99	98					
Cotton	Open Bolls	55	29	54	63	11	16	22	45	6
Rice	Heading	100	99	100	100	5	12	15	63	5
	Mature	54	38	79	66					
	Harvested	5	2	26	19					
Sorghum	Turning Color	100	99	100	100	0	4	25	71	0
	Mature	99	90	97	94					
	Harvested	65	45	62	56					
Soybeans	Turning Color	82	69	88	70	7	13	25	49	6
	Shedding Leaves	65	53	71	54					
	Harvested	37	25	47	27					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	15	3	6	15	0	8	48	44	0
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	89	88	81	85	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						10	17	20	40	13
Pasture						15	26	36	20	3

County Agent Comments

"Katrina tangled cotton, and much of the defoliated cotton and dry land cotton is on the ground. An estimated 35% of the cotton is damaged. About 25% to 35% of rice is down and 20% of the corn is damaged. The ground is covered with pecans, and approximately 50% of the pecan crop in Coahoma County is damaged."

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

"A main concern after Katrina is the ability to move grain down a low river that does not have a definite terminal port. Operation of the local elevator will be only when they can get a barge available for loading."

— Robert Martin, Issaquena

"Hurricane Katrina spread her wrath over Holmes County laying down cornfields and cotton. Cornfields simply can be described as looking as if a combine went through the field without its header down -- trampling down most of what is in the field -- some stalks stand in a leaning way. Cotton is trampled and twisted looking with fruit and potential fruit on the ground. Soybeans weathered the blow relatively well. Some fields that I have seen were not blown down."

— Betsy K. Padgett, Holmes

“Corn that was ready to harvest was laid over by Hurricane Katrina. Soybeans and other crops also sustained some wind damage. How much can be salvaged is uncertain at this time. Fuel for harvest and transportation is a big concern. We have minor inconveniences compared to the problems that others face in other parts of Mississippi from Katrina.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

“All crops were hurt some by Katrina, but rice, corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans were hurt the worst. Cotton was, for the most part, just starting to pop open and hopefully wasn't hurt as bad. The harvesting of rice and corn will be difficult and extremely slow.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“The storm blew at least half of our rice down and also twisted the corn crop. Some of the most mature cotton was also blown out. We need this good weather to continue so we can harvest this crop.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Corn and rice took a hit from Katrina. Rice is about 35% down and corn is 60% lodged. Cotton was not defoliated and received little damage. Soybeans received little damage, but those that were ready to cut are beginning to shatter.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Producers in Tunica County suffered minimal damage from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina. About 25 percent of the drained rice is laying down, soybeans have no damage, and cotton suffered minimal damage.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Katrina did a number on the crops, especially corn and cotton. If the cotton was open, she knocked about half of it out. What was not open had the leaves stripped off and the bolls will not fill correctly. The corn is anywhere from 25% to 100% down depending on variety and row orientation. The beans seem to be the least affected. Only the combine and the picker will tell the rest of the story!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Any comment made will pale in comparison to the devastation suffered from Katrina in the southern counties. We had some corn blown and cotton twisted, but the producers will at least still be able to harvest. This agent's heart goes out to the producers in the southern counties.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Hurricane Katrina brought high winds and 2.5 to 5 inches of rain to this area. She lodged almost 100% of our corn, reducing yields by 5 to 10 percent. She laid thousands of acres of rice flat onto the ground with losses yet to be determined. Five to thirty-five percent of the open cotton was blown onto the ground, although most of the cotton was not open. Leaves and small bolls were also torn from the top of the cotton plants. For the most part, soybeans escaped unharmed.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Katrina blew most of the rice down. Corn yet to be harvested was reduced by over 50% by broken stalks. Cotton was twisted and a lot of open cotton was blown from the bolls.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“Hurricane Katrina left most of the corn lodged to some degree. Only around 20 percent is still standing, with around 20 percent completely flat. Other fields are either partially lodged or leaning and most will be difficult to harvest. Soybeans and cotton fared better than corn, but did sustain damage in varying degrees. Yield loss in cotton will likely be in the area of 20 percent in my area due to open cotton blown to the ground, combined with lodging that will make harvesting very difficult. I expect only a 10 percent yield loss in soybeans, although this is dependent upon getting good weather through the harvest.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Katrina damaged crops, livestock, homes, businesses, schools, utilities, roads, bridges, vehicles, hospitals, churches, etc. (which are material things), but it didn't destroy the will of our people to help one another.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Katrina dumped approximately 7 inches of rain on Oktibbeha County. There was extensive damage to fencing. The corn crop was flattened, low lying areas of soybeans went under water, and major losses are expected. Cotton was damaged, especially with some bolls already being open. Structural damage occurred on several farm buildings. Major portions of the county were out of power for 2 days and some did not get electricity until last Saturday.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“The Hurricane has changed the whole harvest estimate/outlook. Winds in this area were clocked at around 90 miles per hour. Though much of the corn is harvested, winds and heavy rains laid the rest of the corn down. Many of the soybean fields I have looked at are in sad shape. Another big problem is the availability of fuel. I have had many calls from farmers looking for fuel. The outcome of this year’s crop is in extreme jeopardy. We will know the final outcome after we complete the harvest.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from August 29, 2005 to September 4, 2005 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland				78			-0.49	0	0.21				
Lambert							-0.73	0	1.17				
Tunica	90	63	78	77	+1	2.05	+1.48	2	3.31				
Extreme/Average	90	63		78									
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City				77			-0.77	0	1.13				
Hickory Flat	93	57	75	76	-1	4.92	+4.04	2	5.74				
Independence				76		2.71	+1.95	2	3.54				
Oxford	94	63	78	76	+2	4.07	+3.23	2	4.86				
Extreme/Average	94	57	75	77	-2	4.92	+4.12	2	5.74				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	56	76	76	0	1.45	+0.63	2	1.55				
Iuka	92	52	72	74	-2	7.32	+6.38	2	9.29				
Ripley	91	58	75	76	-1	4.44	+3.67	2	5.29				
Tupelo	94	62	78			4.36		2	5.36				
Verona				78		5.47	+4.49	2	5.73				
Extreme/Average	94	52	75	77	-2	5.84	+5.01	2	9.29				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	95	65	80	79	+1	3.24	+2.61	3	3.87				
Rolling Fork				79			-0.61	0	2.59				
Stoneville				79		2.70E	+2.12	1	3.54				
Yazoo City	95	61	80	80	0	6.50	+5.84	1	7.50				
Extreme/Average	95	61	80	79	+1	4.87	+4.25	2					
5. Central													
Canton				79			-0.66	1	1.06				
Carthage				78			-0.81	0	2.78				
Eupora				77			-0.78	0	0.90				
Lexington				77			-0.64	0	1.52				
Extreme/Average				78									
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen				77		6.13	+5.39	1	7.06				
Houston	93	56	75	76	-1	0.01	-0.82	1	3.24				
Philadelphia				78			-0.77	0	2.30				
State University				78		2.04	+1.27	1	3.39				
Extreme/Average	93	56		78		2.04	+1.24	1					
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs				79			-0.90	1	1.72				
Natchez				80			-0.81	1	0.20				
Oakley				78			-0.79	0	4.11				
Vicksburg								0	1.17				
Extreme/Average				79									
8. South-Central													
Collins				79			-0.25	1	2.69				
Columbia	95	66	82	80	+2	1.04	+0.06	1	4.41				
Tylertown				80					2.22				
Extreme/Average	95	66		79									
9. Southeast													
Beaumont									4.10				
Hattiesburg				80					2.24				
Laurel				79					2.55				
Newton				78					0.02				
Extreme/Average				79									
10. Coastal													
Gulfport				81					2.00				
Poplarville				80					3.20				
Waveland				80					0.96				
Extreme/Average				80									
State	95	52	77	78	-1	4.25	+3.49	2	7.29				

DFN=Departure from Normal.

The large quantity of missing data is due to Hurricane Katrina